

THE BLOOMFIELD CITIZEN.

VOL. XXII. NO. 29.

BLOOMFIELD, N. J., SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1903.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

DECIDEDLY "AGAINST"

THE PROPOSITION TO PAY THE WATER COMPANY \$150,000 FOR ITS PLANT.

A Proportionate Majority of Seven and One-Half to One in the Negative—Less than Fifty Per Cent. of the Registered Voters Participated in the Referendum—Public Interest Now Centered in the Possible Future Action of the Town Council.

The special election held Tuesday, November 10, at which the voters voted "in favor" and "against" the purchase of the water works system, according to the resolution of the Town Council dated October 8, 1903, resulted in a vote decidedly against the purchase. The total vote in the town was 1,157, of which 1,021 was "against" and only 136 "in favor." The proportionate majority was about seven and one-half to one against.

The vote by election districts was as follows: First Ward, First District, 217 against, 26 for; Second District, 154 against, 32 for. Second Ward, 303 against, 22 for. Third Ward, First District, 129 against, 44 for; Second District, 218 against, 12 for.

The Watsessing district gave the largest proportionate majority against the purchase, the ratio there being a fraction over eighteen to one. The Second Ward was next with a ratio of a fraction over thirteen to one against. In the First District of the First Ward the ratio was a fraction over eighteen to one against. In the Second District of that ward the ratio was a fraction short of five to one against, and in the Second District of the Third Ward it was a small fraction short of three to one against.

Enthusiastic advocates of the referendum theory in politics found but little cause for congratulation in the magnitude of the vote. The question at issue was of the greatest local importance, and the election had been widely advertised and much talked about, and every individual voter's attention was called to it, yet the referendum failed to bring out fifty per cent. of the registered vote of the town. The ballots used at the election, while they were strictly in accordance with the law, did not clearly define the issue at stake, which was purely a question of price and not the larger question of municipal ownership.

Public interest is now centered in the possible future action of the Town Council. The people in a public meeting held in Central Hall on October 29 by a decidedly large majority adopted a resolution specifying a course that it was desired the Council should pursue. That resolution read as follows:

Whereas, The Town Council have called a special election for November 10 to authorize the purchase of the Orange Water Company's plant located in the streets of this town at a price of \$150,000; and

Whereas, This sum is greatly in excess of the cost of a new and adequate distribution plant, and is about double the present value of the Orange Water Company's plant; be it

Resolved, That the citizens of Bloomfield hereby request the Town Council of Bloomfield to reconsider its action in calling for such election on November 10; and so it further.

Resolved, That the Town Council be and they are hereby requested to offer the Orange Water Company the sum of \$90,000 for the purchase of its plant located in the streets of Bloomfield; and be it further

Resolved, That if the Orange Water Company shall not accept said offer of \$90,000 for its said plant within ten days from the date of receiving the same, the Town Council of Bloomfield be and they are hereby advised to at once take the necessary proceedings for the construction of a new and adequate system of water mains and pipes in this town.

That portion of the above resolutions respecting the Town Council to reconsider its action in calling the special election was met by a valid legal objection, and there were indications that reconsideration would be followed by litigation. While it is a matter of conjecture that a writ of mandamus would follow an act of reconsideration, yet such a course was legally open. Now it remains to be seen what the Council will do with the two remaining clauses of the resolutions.

Railroad Rumors.

Murders have been current in Essex and Morris counties for the past few months to the effect that the Erie Railroad had a big project on foot involving an extension of its lines in these territories. The most definite of these rumors has been one to the effect that the Erie has planned to use a route projected twenty years ago for a railroad from Montclair, which is now traversed by the Greenwood Lake division of the Erie, to Morristown, to connect these with new lines brought to that point.

Damaged by Trolley Car.

A horse and wagon belonging to a laundry company in Montclair was run into by a trolley car of the Passaic Valley line in front of the residence of Dr. W. F. Harrison Monday. The shafts of the vehicle were broken. The driver, James Chamberlain, was not hurt.

Trunk Stealer Case.

With a brilliant array of counsel, including former United States Attorney-General John W. Griggs, William B. Gourley, Michael Dunn, Thomas C. Simonton, Joseph Coulter, Richard V. Lindabury and Chandler W. Eiken, argument was begun in the Supreme Court at Trenton on Monday, in the proceeding by which the city of Paterson seeks to set aside as unconstitutional the appointment of the Passaic Valley Sewage Commission under the act of the late Legislature.

The case came up before Justices Fort, Pitney and Garretson, in the main branch court. Opening argument for Paterson was made by William B. Gourley, who was hardly well under way when a protracted discussion was precipitated over the time that should be devoted to the argument of the case. It was agreed by the Court that the case should consume four hours, two hours last Monday and two next Monday.

Following a general discussion of the purpose of the act, Mr. Gourley argued that the act of April 22 last creating the Sewage Commission is unconstitutional and void under that clause of the constitution prohibiting private local or special laws regulating internal affairs of towns or counties. That it is local, he said, was too obvious to require argument. That it is special, he claimed, is equally obvious.

The only phase of the constitutional clauses worthy of consideration, he contended, was whether the act regulates the internal affairs of towns. He claimed that it imposes a new law upon such cities as are named and are included in the drainage district; that it strips from these particular cities some of their chartered rights and powers; that it changes the manner of exercising the powers already existing; that it subjects them to another law in respect to their sewage and drainage; that it imposes upon them an additional special tax.

After reviewing the case of the prosecution and the arguments on which it was founded, Joseph Coulter went into the detail of his defense. An interesting description of the district affected was given. He said:

"This district, with an area of less than eighty square miles, contains a population of over 500,000 inhabitants, over 6,250 to each square mile if evenly distributed. Within its limits are two of the largest cities in the State, and many other towns and cities of large importance. At the head of the main stream within this district—the Passaic river—lies the city of Paterson, filled with silk mills, dyeing establishments, print works, and many other manufacturing establishments of a similar kind. The condition of the river has become so offensive that it drives people from their homes along its banks, causes nausea and sickness, and very greatly depreciates the value of all the property in its vicinity."

"The situation is peculiar. There is no other stream in this State—not perhaps out of it—that can be compared with it. Its location, situation, the density of the population, the fact that the stream passes through many municipalities and several counties, combined with the fact that the pollution is so great at all points and through its entire length, and that in order to do this it is necessary to find a special place for deposit outside of the district, make it necessary that the act which authorizes the cleansing of this river and its tributaries within the district should be an act especially adapted to the situation.

"In the judgment of the Commissioners, as shown by their report to the Legislature, and of the Legislature, as shown by the passage of the act reported by the Commissioners with such modifications and changes as the Legislature thought necessary, the district includes all the territory which is so affected by the pollution of the Passaic river and its tributaries that it has become necessary not only to prevent the further discharge of polluting matter into the streams and rivers therein, but to make some safe and proper disposition of the offensive matter that has heretofore been discharged into the waters of such streams and rivers.

"In the case now before the Court, in the exercise of the same power, the State, by agents of its own selection, clothed with its power, is cleansing an infected district to save the lives and protect the health of its citizens, and it is by the same act requiring the several municipalities included in the infected district, all of whom are contributing to the nuisance, to contribute ratably to defray the expenses incurred and to be incurred in the work, giving the taxing officers of the several municipalities and taxing districts included, power to impose and collect by tax a sum sufficient for this purpose."

A study of the dinner table and its glassware needs can best be made where glass is at its best. Dorflinger's, 3 and 5 West 19th Street, near Fifth Avenue, and 36 Murray Street, New York.—Adv.

THE TAX DUPLICATE.

How the Town Council Missed an Opportunity to Place the Responsibility for the High Tax Rate of the Current Year.—The Board of Assessors Invited an Inquiry into the Assessments.

The approval by the Town Council on Monday evening (the 2d inst.) of the tax duplicate turned in by the Board of Assessors for the current year without examination was an injustice to the board. It was widely known, both by publication of the fact and from expressions of opinion by some members of the Council, that approval of the tax duplicate was held up for purposes of investigation, and the members of the board were present at several meetings of the Council for the express purpose of giving any information that might be desired in the course of the proposed inquiry into and investigation of the duplicate. The small increase in valuations shown for the year was one of the chief causes for the desired investigation, and the clerk of the board had prepared a list of the reductions made by the Assessors in order to facilitate the work of inquiry and examination. The statement never was called for. No examination of the duplicate was made, and after holding it up several weeks, much to the inconvenience of the Collector's office and to the annoyance of not a few taxpayers who had laid by a certain sum for taxes and wanted to pay, the Council's action might just as well been taken on the first night that the duplicate was submitted to it for approval. The questions raised as to the reason of the small increase in valuations and the legality of the power of the Assessors to make the reductions they did make, and the wisdom of such policy in the opinion of the Council, are questions that remain unanswered in so far as the people were to be benefited by any light thrown on the matter at issue by any action of the Council.

While it has not been officially declared, there is reason to believe that the work of the Assessors for the current year was largely governed by the action of the State Board of Taxation in previous years. The State board, it is well known, reduced valuations in certain individual cases below the assessment fixed by the local board. The local board, it is understood, took the State board's opinion as a basis for assessment and made general corresponding reductions in the immediate vicinity of the individual reductions made by the State board. The opinion is held by some people that the State board acts unwise in taking up and reducing the assessments made by a local board of assessment in any community—and such action has a demoralizing tendency in the general local assessment. The promised examination of the tax duplicate of the current year would have afforded an appropriate opportunity to bring to the attention of the State board the result of its action in interfering with the work of the local Assessors here. The question that could be raised is an important and delicate one in the line of assessment for taxation. If B complains that his assessment is too high and the State board reduces it, and the following year the local board, taking the State board's estimate of the valuation of B's property as a basis, reduce the adjoining or immediate properties of C and D to correspond with B's, would the State board order the two former put back to the figure of the previous year without regard to B's cause? It matters not whether C and D asked for a reduction. It appears that in the opinion of the Board of Assessors the equities in the case entitled them to it.

Members of the Town Council claim that the tax rate of the current year reflects upon the present Council's administration of public affairs, and that while the present Council has honestly striven to keep expenditures down, and has kept them down, it is charged with responsibility for the high tax rate. The Council by neglecting to make inquiry into the tax duplicate missed the opportunity to place the responsibility for the high tax rate where it properly belongs, namely, upon the shoulders of the State Board of Taxation. The local Board of Assessors placed it there and it was up to the Council to show that it was placed there. If the assessments of the current year had remained unchanged with the exception of the individual cases upon which the State board acted, the probability is that with natural increase from new buildings and general development there would have been a natural increase in valuations and a corresponding decrease in the tax rate, and the Council would have been given the benefit of a record for economy that it strove to earn, but the Council neglected its opportunity, and must bear the onus of the high tax rate.

Musical Instruction.

Mrs. Bennett-Francis. For terms and further particulars call at or address William J. Maier, No. 47 Fairmount avenue, Newark, N. J.—Adv.

PARK M. E. CHURCH.

The Week's Exercises in Connection with Its Fiftieth Anniversary—The Second Half-Century Begun! Free of Debt.

The semi-centennial services in the Park Methodist Episcopal Church were largely attended and of an unusually interesting character. The services opened Sunday morning, and Bishop Bowman honored the occasion with his presence and offered a fervent prayer for the welfare of the church, and the prayer apparently met with a speedy answer, when shortly after the Rev. Dr. John Krantz made an appeal to the congregation for funds to pay off the indebtedness of the church, and the sum of \$2,000 was raised.

The interior of the church was beautifully decorated for the Sunday services, and an excellent musical programme was rendered. Dr. Krantz preached from Psalm 84, 1—a sermon which held the closest attention of the audience, and made a deep impression.

The Rev. Dr. Albert Manz preached an eloquent and impressive sermon at the evening service. "The Kingdom of God Likened Unto Seed" was his subject.

"Recollections of the Past" was the theme of discourses made at the Monday evening's services, and the Rev. R. B. Collins, who was pastor of the church from 1885 to 1893, and Presiding Elder Warren L. Hoagland were the speakers. Dr. Hoagland, who was pastor of the church nearly a quarter of a century ago, spoke of the gift of a watch and chain presented to him by the church, and said that every time he looked at the timepiece he thought of the Bloomfield church.

Letters of regret were read from Rev. Dr. J. G. Johnston, Rev. Dr. Richard Harcourt and Rev. Robert M. Ayersworth, all former pastors. Rev. Henry W. Ballantine, a former pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, was also present and made an address. The services were brought to a close with the benediction by Rev. P. G. Blight. Music was provided during the evening by William Maier, violinist, and Miss Grace Martin, contralto soloist.

Local clergymen extended their congratulations to Dr. Woodruff and his congregation at Tuesday night's gathering. Among the speakers were Rev. Remi J. Buttinghausen of the German Presbyterian Church, Rev. George L. Curtis of the First Presbyterian Church, and Rev. Charles A. Cook of the First Baptist Church. A letter of regret was read from Rev. John Y. Dobbins, pastor of the "Mother Church," Montclair. Rev. P. G. Blight, pastor of the "Daughters Church," at Watsessing, made a few congratulatory remarks.

The church members, young and old, gathered in the church on Wednesday night and listened to an address of historical interest by Dr. Henry L. Colt of Newark. Dr. Colt, who is a descendant of a long line of good old Methodists, gave some history of an interesting character, and among other things told of the funeral of his father, which took place from the Park Church. Dr. Colt's grandfather was also an old standby of the church, and did much to further its interests.

John W. Snedeker, who has been Superintendent of the Sunday-school for many years, although not in succession, gave some pleasant reminiscences, and was followed by Cyrus F. Pierson, who attended the Sunday-school as a child, and has been interested in church work ever since.

The semi-centennial celebration was brought to a close Thursday night with a social gathering of an enjoyable character.

Social Gathering.

Miss Clara Lind of Maple street gave a party Monday night in honor of her cousin, Miss Helbert, of Goshen, N. Y. Dancing was indulged in until a late hour. Among the guests were Mr. and Mrs. E. Beach Bassinger, Mr. and Mrs. William E. Spinning, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Tappan and Miss Flossie Tappan, Dr. and Mrs. Wilfred Harrison, Miss Kate Walker, Miss Jessie Lind and her brother Harry, and the Misses Rawson, all of this town; Miss Spratz of Franklin and Mr. Shearer of Newark.

Westminster Presbyterian Church.

At the services in the Westminster Presbyterian Church on Sunday, the pastor, Rev. George A. Pauli, will preach in the morning at 10:30 o'clock, on the subject, "If the righteous is scarcely saved," and in the evening, at 7:45 o'clock, on the subject, "Delayed Punishment." There will be good music at both services by the quartette. A very cordial invitation is extended to all. On Sunday evening, the 22d inst., the Westminster chorus will give a Thanksgiving day cantata entitled "Seed, Time and Harvest." Full notice next week.

Violin and piano instruction at pupil's home or teacher's residence.

Mrs. Bennett-Francis. For terms and further particulars call at or address William J. Maier, No. 47 Fairmount avenue, Newark, N. J.—Adv.

Railroad Station Robbed.

A daring mid-day robbery occurred at the Watsessing station of the Lackawanna Road on Tuesday. Ticket Agent James T. Mullinix had locked the door of the ticket office just as the 12:15 train from Hoboken left the station and went home to his dinner. The thief, it is presumed, entered the station just as Mr. Mullinix left it, and with a chisel or Jimmy hastily pried open the door of the ticket office and took out the money drawer and carried it over to the northwest corner of the station, where he was comparatively free from observation. He put the contents of the drawer in his pocket and got away without being seen. The ticket agent was annoyed to find his office door open when he returned and a quick investigation revealed the robbery. There are many people in and about Watsessing Centre during the noon hour, and there is a constant passing to and fro along the station platform, and how the thief escaped detection is a mystery. The local police were notified and made an investigation of the affair.

Death of Jacob Metz.

Jacob Metz, aged thirty-nine years, died suddenly on Friday night of last week from rheumatism of the heart. Mr. Metz was the son of the late Adam Metz, who was a well-known hotel-keeper, and his son followed the same line of business, and was highly popular as a bar-tender. He was at work in Albert Johnson's hotel, No. 20 Orange street, Friday evening, between 7:30 and 8 o'clock, when he was found unconscious on the floor in one of the rooms of the hotel. A physician was summoned, who pronounced his illness fatal. He was taken to his home, No. 14 Elm street, where he expired quarter past ten o'clock, about three hours and a half from the time he was taken. Mr. Metz was a member of Garfield Circle, Brotherhood of the Union.

The funeral was held from his late residence Wednesday afternoon. Rev. Remi J. Buttinghausen, pastor of the Park Avenue German Presbyterian Church, officiated. The Brotherhood of the Union and the Bartenders' International League, of which Mr. Metz was a member, were represented.

A Dinner Party.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Stewart Campbell of Hillside avenue, Glen Ridge, gave a dinner party Saturday night, the occasion being the first anniversary of their marriage. The guests were those in the bridal party at the wedding. They were Mrs. Van Pyk of East Orange, sister of Mrs. Campbell, matron of honor; Miss Emily Allen and Miss Bertha Kellogg of Elizabeth; Miss Katherine Palmer of New York; Miss Mary Bradley of East Orange, bridesmaids; Frederick Holden Sutton of New York, best man; and James Taylor Greene of New York and Chauncey B. Sayre of Orange, ushers. Rodger Dodd and Charles Bartlett of New York, who were also ushers, were unable to attend. Robert Boyd of Glen Ridge was one of the guests. Rev. Oscar F. Moore, Jr., assistant rector of Grace Episcopal Church, Orange, who performed the ceremony, was also unable to attend. Mrs. Campbell is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Matheson Sutherland of East Orange.

Post Office Fire.

A fire broke out in the Glen Ridge Post Office about 9:30 o'clock last Saturday night and destroyed a number of letter boxes with their contents. The post office is in the Lackawanna station and directly opposite the Glen Ridge Clubhouse. Several members of the club discovered the blaze and telephoned to the fire department. After about twenty minutes' work the flames were extinguished. The belief is that the fire started in the drop-letter box, but no one can explain from what cause. That part of the building in which the letter-box was situated was burning the fiercest when the firemen arrived. The postmaster is Charles Morris, and it is understood that the fire broke out while he was away from the building.

Whist Club Meets.

The North End Whist Club met Monday night at the home of Mr. and Mrs. DeMoyné of Morton street. Mrs. Raymond Smith of Montclair won the woman's first prize, a cut glass dish. Frank DeMoyné won the first prize for men, a pipe rack in the shape of a sword, with a matchbox in the hilt. Mr. and Mrs. George Plume of Caldwell were guests of the club. The next meeting will be held at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Wilfred F. Harrison on Broad street November 20.

Bulldog Chews an Actor.

Arthur Gordon, an actor, had an encounter with a bulldog in Brookdale Tuesday, in which he was severely bitten. He was going through an apple orchard, when the dog attacked him. Gordon had a walking stick and struck the brute several times, which, instead of driving it off, increased its rage. The actor was bitten in several places before two farmhands could come to his aid and drive the dog off with pitchforks. Gordon had his wounds cauterized.

THE STALKING GHOST

OF ANNEXATION AGAIN FRIGHTENING MORBID-MINDED CITIZENS.

Fears that the Day of Inevitable Destiny is Near at Hand—The Attitude of the City of Newark Towards Annexation Not Considered—No Immediate Danger of Municipal Suicide.

It is so often asserted that the inevitable destiny of this town is to be annexed to Newark that not a few people seem to find enjoyment in speculating as to how near the town has reached its point of destiny. The state of the public mind with respect to municipal affairs acts in the nature of a barometer for the purpose of basing predictions as to the nearness of the end of the town's municipal independence. If the people become thoroughly aroused and indulge in some caustic criticism of the action or policy of the local government, that is a sure indication to some people that the collapse is close at hand. There is an amusing side to some of this anxiety over the nearness or distance of the dissolution of municipal independence. Some of the people who, in a personal sense, most deplore the tendency towards annexation are the ones who are most anxious to talk about it, and feel it in their bones that it is time that the political undertaker was called in and the size